

MARY SUREATT BOARDING HOUSE  
804 H Street, NW  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-787

HABS  
DC  
WASH,  
638-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HABSDC WASH 638-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MARY SURRETT BOARDING HOUSE

HABS NO. DC-787

Location: 604 H Street, NW, Washington, District of Columbia.

Significance: The Mary Surratt Boarding House, along with her home in Maryland, is known for its part in the plot of and flight from the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth.

Description: The Boarding House is a four-story brick building attached to a row of buildings. It is currently unoccupied, but looks recently to have been a Chinese restaurant on the ground floor with the top three floors used as a residence. The original structure seems unchange, but with more modernized elements.

The brick exterior of the building is painted white (which is peeling off). The original entrance does not exist, but instead is a store front with the main door on the right and an exit on the left of the facade. There is a three-bay facade on the second and third floor and two dormer windows on the fourth floor. Each third and fourth floor window has an iron balcony. The original windows were replaced with modern insulation windows. The two dormers are proportional to the center of the roof with a brick chimney on the left edge.

Little decoration is found on the interior of the building, except for the fluted casing around the second floor windows with corner block paterae. There is a staircase that leads up to the fourth floor room.

History: In 1862, Mary Surratt operated a boarding house in Washington, away from her home in Maryland. John Wilkes Booth and conspirators stayed at the boarding house prior to the assassination of President Lincoln, and on their flight from the theater they stopped by Mrs. Surratt's Maryland house to pick up arms and ammunition.

Due to the fact that John Wilkes Booth had stayed at the boarding house, Mary Surratt was accused and convicted of complicity in the plot to kill the President. She was later hanged after a military trial, though, later investigations indicate that she was innocent.

Mary Surratt's Boarding House, Maryland home, and other buildings associated with Booth's flight have become a great importance in Prince George's County. The events that follow the assassination brought national attention to this part of the county.

Sources: Arthur Townsend. "National Register nomination: Mary

MARY SURRATT BOARDING HOUSE  
HABS No. DC-787 (Page 2)

Surratt House, 1972." The nomination is located in the History Division, National Park Service.

Historian: Terra K. Klugh, HABS, 1994.